

# ANNUAL REPORT



EUROPEAN CENTRE  
FOR  
MINORITY ISSUES

**2013**

## MONITORING, MEDIA AND MINORITIES



Preface

2013 was yet another eventful year for the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). Numerous activities and initiatives have been undertaken in Flensburg, Prishtina and Tbilisi.

This annual report gives an overview to the impressive and multifarious activities which have been taking place during the last year. Academic studies, action oriented research, community outreach, policy advisory efforts, promotion of dialogue, the dissemination of information, publications, speeches and lectures, active participation in conferences, teaching, analysis, project development, and world-wide cooperation with the leading experts within the field of minority studies are key-words to describe the far-reaching scope of ECMI.

I would like to highlight three initiatives in this context, each demonstrating the impact and significance of the work of ECMI:

In July, ECMI held the conference *Shaping the Frame across the Cycles* devoted to the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (FCNM), marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of it entering into force. Fifteen years ago, ECMI hosted the very first international conference focusing on the scope and potential of the then very new FCNM.

Thus, the conference offered the opportunity to review and assess the history and impact of this highly important instrument. A number of renowned speakers contributed to highly stimulation discussions, adding new aspects to the understanding of this instrument. Director Dr Malloy and Ugo Caruso also compiled an impressive volume named *Minorities, their Rights and the Monitoring of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* with essays focusing on the same subject, published in honour of ECMI's deputy chairman and the internationally renowned expert Rainer Hofmann, who turned 60 just before the conference took place.

In August, the third ECMI Summer School took place in Flensburg. This highly successful course was attended by students and scholars interested in minority issues from all over the world. The lectures, presentations, workshops, discussions, excursions and meetings with both minorities and majorities in the Danish-German border region were well received by the participants from 21 countries. Thus, ECMI contributes to the training of young scholars and

the dissemination of knowledge and ongoing research regarding minority issues in Europe to a new generation of academics.

In October, the staff of ECMI published a textbook on Minority Issues in Europe, focusing on rights, concepts and policy. The volume grew out of the staff's teaching module on minority issues offered within the master programme in European Studies in cooperation with the *University of Flensburg* and the *University of Southern Denmark*. In ten chapters, the volume offers an outline on minority issues, addressing the wide field of empirical and theoretical approaches to minorities in scholarly studies. The new textbook will be used in the minority issues module within European Studies, but is also an excellent introduction to the field for, among others, journalists and practitioners.

Together with all the other activities taking place at ECMI, these highlights serve as milestones in the further advancement of the study of minority issues.

ECMI is one of the most important research institutes devoted to the study of minority issues. Its scholars are widely used as speakers, contributors, authors, advisors and general experts in many contexts related to minority issues. It is involved in a number of international projects and acquires external funding for both action oriented and substantial research projects. The continuous internship-project attracts gifted young students from all over the world, staying in Flensburg for a shorter period of time.

The regional offices in Kosovo and Georgia serve as important field stations with highly important projects and initiatives, offering expert advice and even mitigating in strained situations, but also gathering and disseminating first-hand knowledge regarding the often complicated and complex minority issues in the region. Hence, ECMI makes a real-world difference. The ECMI staff consists of a devoted group of scholars with an international background. The eminent scholars serving on the Advisory Council offer encouragement, advice and share their knowledge with the staff of the ECMI, furthering the excellence of the centre. Thus, the Executive Board is very pleased with the development of the Centre and looks forward to even more activities and significant outputs in the coming years.

Dr Jørgen Kühl  
Chairman of the Board

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Media and monitoring were among many fields of interest pursued by the ECMI staff in 2013; The ECMI staff at the beginning of 2014, from left: Dr Andreea Cârstocea, Tamari Bulia, Hanna Vasilevich, Jana Suhr, Dr Alexander Osipov, Dr Tove H. Malloy, Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen, Oana Musteata, Dr Raul Cârstocea, Sonja Wolf, William McKinney and Dr Zora Popova.

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## Director's message

One of the most prominent tasks of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) is to work towards a European governance model that safeguards the minority rights enshrined in the *European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (FCNM).

In 2013, we took this task to new lengths. Normally, in human and minority rights work, compliance and implementation are in the forefront. This is not without reason. Rights remain nothing but an idea on paper if they are not implemented.

With regard to the Framework Convention, the message to governments is quite clear: you sign and ratify the instrument, thus you must implement. However, it is not a new argument that the Framework Convention is endowed with a 'weak' method of ensuring compliance; it does not have a 'court' to which minorities can send their petitions about violations of their rights. Instead, the Framework Convention provides for a committee of independent experts, the *Advisory Committee* of the FCNM, who oversees implementation at the country level. Moreover, observers have argued that the Framework Convention is not very clear in its provisions; it merely sets a frame for minority protection at the state level. Thus, the 'frame' needs work in order to be filled with substantive measures.

The *Advisory Committee's* work culminates in opinions on how governments are 'filling the frame.' These are sent to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which issues resolutions asking governments to comply. To many this is the end of story. Not so for the *Advisory Committee*, and neither for ECMI. Although the 'monitors' of the Framework Convention, the members of the *Advisory*

*Committee*, are not judges, they have options that allow them to pursue the aim of the Framework Convention in a rigorous manner.

In 2013, the ECMI decided to 'monitor the monitors' by investigating approaches to monitoring the Framework Convention since its entering into force. We asked former and current members of the *Advisory Committee* as well as administrators involved in monitoring to come to Flensburg and help us evaluate the outcome of the first fifteen years of monitoring.

This effort included a public conference hosted by the ECMI (see the video on our homepage) and culminated in a scholarly collection of essays addressing many aspects of monitoring and the development of the *Advisory Committee's* methods over the years (see elsewhere in this report).

The collection was not self-congratulatory; indeed, contributors were also critical of their joint output. What we learned was that the *Advisory Committee* in working with governments and public officials as well as with members of civil society and minority organizations has managed not only to improve its methods but also to expand the original mandate. Thus, dialogue with national authorities rather than simple reporting has become a major tool in the monitoring. One could argue that the members of the *Advisory Committee* have contributed to 'shaping the frame' as we eventually titled our conference in July 2013.

The ECMI's dedication to safeguarding the rights enshrined in the Framework Convention does not end with the shaping the frame. For some years now, the ECMI has focused on making monitoring more efficient by piloting indicators for minority rights.

Indicators can not only assist experts in becoming better monitors; in so far that they provide data on the basis of which evaluations of compliance and implementation can be made, they can also help minorities understand their own situations in a broader context.

Indicators for minority rights provide descriptions of good implementation in specific areas of rights. However, indicators for minority rights do not exist in a consistent manner in Europe. Operationalizing legal rights into practice, therefore, remains a gap in European monitoring.

For this reason, the ECMI put piloting minority indicators on the international agenda in July 2013 by convening a number of experts and practitioners in Flensburg for an intensive workshop on piloting minority indicators.

Piloting minority indicators is not, however, a simple task as the participants of the workshop concluded. First of all, quantitative methods are most desirable for accurate measurement but quantifying minority existence and behaviour is difficult and in some countries even illegal. This is because historical legacy has taught us that collecting data on minorities can lead to catastrophic results. Secondly, indicators can be designed on the basis of qualitative methods, but measuring on the basis of qualitative results involves subjective analysis, and subjective evaluation is hardly scientific. Thirdly, there are several types of indicators aimed at finding different results. While some measure performance of instruments, other measure outcome in terms of individual life conditions.

Thus, the task to design relevant indicators for minority rights is daunting to say the least.

Language policy is one area where this task is feasible. Our colleagues at ECMI Kosovo demonstrated this in 2013 when they took a very important step in designing indicators for monitoring language policies in Kosovo. It is no secret that Kosovo is becoming a country with two language groups hardly able to communicate. The implementation of Kosovo's language policy is thus of high priority for the country's democratic well-being.

Working with Kosovo's Language Commissioner, ECMI Kosovo launched a pilot project on designing and testing language indicators in the fall of 2013. Stay tuned for the first results in 2014.

Whether we shape frames or design indicators, monitoring is an essential part of governance and therefore a vital part of the ECMI's work. I am proud that ECMI researchers have taken these important steps in 2013, and we will continue in the years to come.

The better the minority indicators, the greater the opportunities to safeguard the minority rights enshrined

Dr Tove H. Malloy  
ECMI Director

## ECMI Flensburg 2013

### Main events

ECMI Summer School  
Exhibition: Ethnic Minorities in Georgia  
Conference: Shaping the Frame across the Cycles  
Seminar: Minorities, Media and Intercultural Dialogue  
Seminar: Expert Workshop on National Minority Indicators  
Seminar: ECPR Workshop on European Minority Empowerment  
Seminar: Distribution of Financial Support to Organisations Representing National Minorities

### Staff

4 new staff members

### Publications

2 ECMI Issue Briefs ©  
4 Journal on Ethnopolitics and  
Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)  
9 Books or handbooks  
8 Reports  
12 ECMI Working Papers ©

### Dissemination

22 conference participation  
128 ECMI InfoChannel news  
3 ECMI Updates  
1 Annual Programme

### Calendar

Outreach activities through participation in conferences and other such events are listed at [www.ecmi.de](http://www.ecmi.de) > Events





# Shaping the Frame across the Cycles

On 5 July, experts in minority issues were in Flensburg to begin telling the history of the *Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (FCNM). For the conference *Shaping the Frame across the Cycles*, they were hosted by ECMI.

The *Advisory Committee* (ACFC) of the FCNM took one step out of relative anonymity, when the participating experts of the conference, *Shaping the Frame across the Cycles*, shared their insights in the ACFC's first 15 years of existence. The conference took place at *Flensborghus*.

Since 1998, when the FCNM entered into force, a monitoring system around the ACFC has established itself.

The history of the ACFC's merits and obstacles, establishment, and first fifteen years of operation has never been told in a comprehensive presentation. This was remedied in Flensburg, where ECMI staff and visiting experts started to share their knowledge of the ACFC history.

*Shaping the Frame Across the Cycles* featured elite European experts regarding the ACFC's precise history. All were directly involved in the work of the ACFC and all the former presidents participated - Rainer Hofmann, Alan Phillips and Asbjørn Eide.

In the conference title, the word "Cycles" alludes to the five-year monitoring cycles. A cycle takes five years, after which a new one begins.



The publication resulting from "Shaping the Frame across the Cycles" is a "Festschrift" dedicated to Professor Dr Rainer Hofmann for years of excellent work – particularly in the *Advisory Committee of the FCNM*. On the picture, the well-kept secret was just released.

Europe is now at the threshold of the fourth cycle since the system began.

## Contributions published

The conference and the book that was subsequently published with all the conference contributions are grouped into three themes.

The first theme is related to the ACFC as an institution and its mandate. The ACFC mandate was designed by politicians, but they clearly could not account for everything. Therefore, under this theme the experts explained what happened when the ACFC met reality, and how this shaped both the mandate and the institution.

The second theme is about the manner in which ACFC has exercised its role as a moral watchdog - the normative role, as researchers call it. The experts also expounded upon how the ACFC operates and carves out influence in the corridors of diplomacy.

With the book and conference's third theme, the experts offer insight into the monitoring "engine" where an important "crankshaft" is the secretariat of the ACFC - and of course the staff of the secretariat.

Cooperation with other, similar institutions and mandates are also presented in this section.

## Resources:

- Find and share this announcement via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories > Institutional Flensburg
- Watch the video report at [youtu.be/eOXY8lrR8ic](http://youtu.be/eOXY8lrR8ic)
- Find the conference photos via [bit.ly/Z9PxUL](http://bit.ly/Z9PxUL)

## Facts: The Framework Convention, the Advisory Committee and the five-year monitoring rounds

The *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (FCNM) is anchored in the Council of Europe. More than 40 European states have signed and ratified the treaty.

The FCNM describes how a monitoring system with an *Advisory Committee* (ACFC) must evaluate whether states actually implement what they have signed and agreed to. The monitoring leads to recommendations given to the states in order to protect minorities.

The ACFC is responsible for providing analyses of minority protection in the states. The ACFC also adopts country specific opinions that should guide the Council of Europe's *Committee of Ministers* (CM) in the preparation of policy resolutions.

The ACFC consists of 18 independent and recognized minority experts who are either elected or appointed for four-year terms.

A monitoring cycle spans over five years and begins when each of the states provide a status report. When the convention entered into force, states were given only one year to prepare the first report. Therefore; we are now at the dawn of the fourth cycle.

As the Council of Europe receives reports from the states parties, they are made available on the Council of Europe website. The ACFC examines the reports and compares them with information from governmental and non-governmental sources.

The ACFC may perform research missions to individual countries and meet up with government representatives, parliamentarians, minority representatives, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Finally, for each state which ratified the agreement, the ACFC authors an opinion that is sent to CM members. After four months, the opinions are made public by the ACFC Secretariat. The four months is also the time states have to comment on the ACFC's opinions.

When the ACFC sends a country specific opinion to the CM the process moves into the political pillar. The CM adopts declarations with recommendations and conclusions to the states.

Naturally, states are expected to act in accordance with the Council of Europe recommendations. In the phase when states are expected to implement the recommendations, the ACFC once again monitors the process.

# ECMI book sheds light on history of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

In the autumn, ECMI essays surfacing the history of monitoring the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* were issued. The essay book is available via Brill.

In *Minorities, their Rights, and the Monitoring of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Essays in Honour of Rainer Hofmann*, ECMI Director Dr Tove H. Malloy and Project Research Associate Ugo Caruso have collected a number of essays authored by prominent European experts on minority rights with the aim to provide a first ever description and analysis of the processes guiding the monitoring of the *Convention*.

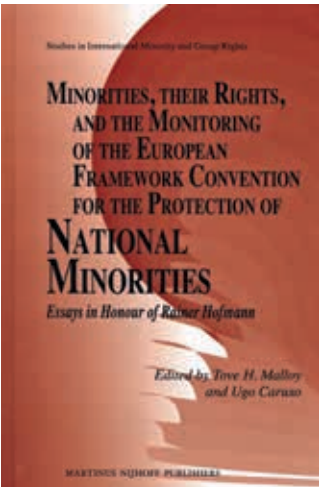
The volume addresses both the technical and political sides of the monitoring efforts, and it includes not only views from the host of the *Convention*, the Council of Europe, but also from the external players that interact with the *Convention* in the course of seeking to protect Europe's national minorities

The compilation is issued by Brill and it is included in the *Studies in International Minority and Group Rights* series.

## Resources

- Find and share this article from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Publications
- Acquire this book via [www.brill.com](http://www.brill.com)

*Minorities, their Rights, and the Monitoring of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Essays in Honour of Rainer Hofmann*







## CROSS CLUSTER

### ECMI issues textbook on the “European Minority Regime”

**Minority Issues in Europe: Rights, Concepts, Policy** was issued in October. The textbook is authored by staff members of the ECMI.

The ECMI textbook on the “European Minority Regime” is the result of a seminar taking place each year at the University of Flensburg. The seminar, and now the book, provides students with a multidisciplinary, informed perspective on minority history and politics as well as social and cultural issues related to minority identity and minority existence in Europe.

The book will continue to serve as a textbook for the seminar participants at the University of Flensburg and for students at partner universities throughout Europe; particularly in border regions.

*Minority Issues in Europe: Rights, Concepts, Policy* is edited by ECMI Director Dr Tove H. Malloy and published by *Frank & Timme*. The publication was made possible through financial support from *Sydbank*.

#### Highly relevant contents

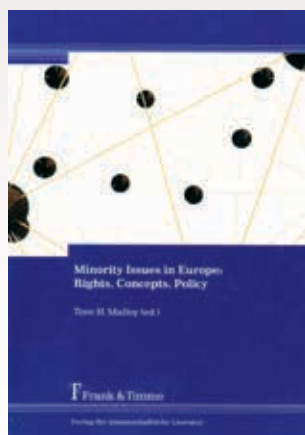
Minorities have been part of European history and politics since the middle of the 16th Century, often seen as obstacles to state-building and later as a threat to nation-building. Traditional minorities have had to fight and make their own way to be able to remain in their homelands, while new arrivals have been met with rejection and were expected to return home.

Minorities are still seen as a threat to peace and security and mostly as outsiders. In the early 21st Century of inter-connected societies, minorities are more than ever a point at issue seen as a threat to social cohesion.

The textbook’s multidisciplinary perspective on European minority history, politics, and on social and cultural issues is organized in three parts. Part I presents *History, International Law and Relations* in the context, with contributions by Dr Raul Carstocea, Tove H. Malloy, and Tamara Jovanovic. *Concepts and Theories* of Part II are presented in articles by Dr Federica Prina, Hanna Vasilevich, Dr Zora Popova, and Dr Tove H. Malloy. Part III, *Politics and Policy*, consist of contributions by Kiryl Kascian, Dr Andreea Cârstocea, and Dr Alexander Osipov. The introduction is authored by the editor, Tove H. Malloy.

#### Resources:

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu)  
> Categories: Publications
- Acquire the book via *Frank & Timme* at [www.frank-timme.de](http://www.frank-timme.de)



### Closer ties ECMI-Azerbaijan in the making

**A new project gives NGOs from Azerbaijan the opportunity to visit the German-Danish border area. The visits are seen as a kick-off for more ECMI-Azerbaijan activity.**

*Cooperation for a stable future: international and intercultural dialogue as a tool for ensuring peace and sustainable development.* This is the title of a new small scale project that opens for establishing new networks and contacts between Azerbaijan and the ECMI.

The main activity of the project will be an May 2014 study visit in Denmark and Germany by 10 selected NGO representatives of Azerbaijan.

Through the project, ECMI wishes to share its knowledge about mechanisms for diversity management with the NGOs. As the title indicates, intercultural dialogue is one of the stepping stones in the context. Depending on a preliminary needs assessment, ECMI will also raise awareness of how stability and peace can be enhanced by improving relations between minorities and majorities.

The project is possible due to support by *The NGO Council* under the President of Azerbaijan. One of the goals of the *NGO Council* is to strengthen the country’s civil society institutions, while the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms and the strengthening of intercultural dialogue are criteria to be pursued by the project operators.



Expert Workshop:  
“National Minority Indicators” 6 July 2013  
at ECMI headquarters in Flensburg. Photo: John Petersen

### Promising platform frames “indicators” project

**ECMI’s “indicators” project made a good start in 2013. A solid knowledge platform was established for the project’s onward journey.**

The “indicators” project of the ECMI has been in the pipeline for a while. It aims at providing a tool – a set of indicators – for measuring the impact of the national minority instruments of the *Council of Europe*.

More specifically, the indicators are meant as a tool that the *Council of Europe* experts can use during their missions. The two main national minority instruments are the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (FCNM) and the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* (ECRML).

In July 2013, ECMI laid the foundation. An expert workshop was gathered in Flensburg, and the participants provided ECMI with the necessary platform of knowledge, experience and ideas that it takes to move the project forward.

Subsequently, the workshop organizers and ECMI researchers at the time, Dr Federica Prina and Ugo Caruso, put together the results of the work in a report. This platform of knowledge - the report - is still retained as an internal working document.

Within ECMI, the project was given this rather long working title: *Piloting Indicators for the Implementation of the FCNM and the ECRML*.

Fundraising for the project’s further destiny is foreseen to be the next step.

#### The 6 July workshop

The workshop in Flensburg took place on 6 July. Practitioners and academics of different disciplines discussed the methodological and

practical implications in designing effective impact indicators that measure state compliance in terms of outcome.

The discussions were framed by Professor Rainer Hofmann (The *Advisory Committee of the FCNM*) who outlined the difficulties in the work of the FCNM monitoring body, and by Mahulena Hofmann and Professor Stefan Oeter (The *Committee of Experts of the ECRML*) who highlighted some of the issues existing before, during and after ratification of the ECRML.

The following experts and researchers took part in the workshop(s): Bill Bowring (*Birkbeck College, University of London*), Malte Brosig (*University of the Witwatersrand*), Joshua Castellino (*Middlesex University*), Fernand De Varennes (*Observatoire international des droits linguistiques*), Robert Dunbar (*University of Edinburgh*), François Grin (*University of Geneva*), Mahulena Hofmann (*University of Luxembourg*), Rainer Hofmann (*Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main*), Christina Johnsson (*Raul Wallenberg Institute*), Emma Lantschner (*University of Graz*), Roberta Medda (*EURAC*), Simone Penasa (*University of Trento*), Adrian Schäfer-Rolffs (*University of Hamburg*), Michal Vasecka (*Masaryk University*), Balazs Vizi (*National University of Public Service, Hungary*), Alejandra Morena (ECMI Kosovo), Tove H. Malloy (ECMI), Federica Prina (ECMI), and Ugo Caruso (ECMI).

#### Resources:

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Cross cluster programmes





New Chairman of the ECMI Executive Board



11 January 2013. Staff and invited guests say a warm farewell to ECMI's longtime Chairman Dr Knud Larsen. At the same time they welcome the new Chairman, Dr Jørgen Kühl.  
From right:  
ECMI Director Tove H. Malloy and the chairmen Kühl and Larsen.  
Photo: Sören Sachau

On 1 January 2013, Dr Jørgen Kühl began as Chairman of the ECMI Executive Board. He succeeded Dr Knud Larsen who held the title since 2006.

Dr Jørgen Kühl is well-known in the context of national minorities. At the European level, Kühl has been a member of and advised in a wide range of committees, councils and political and scientific contexts. Kühl's expertise covers cross border cooperation and minority relations.

Kühl's scientific production includes more than 50 books and publications and several hundred articles and chapters.

Kühl has a background as researcher and teacher in minority issues. Among others he

has occupied positions as Director of the Danevirke Museum (Germany), Head of Institute at the University of Southern Denmark (Denmark) and Director of the Institute of Border Region Studies (Denmark). Kühl is now the principal of the A. P. Møller School which is one of two Danish high schools in Schleswig-Holstein (Germany).

The ECMI Chairman is appointed by the Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education.

Resources:

- Find and share organizational information via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Category: Organizational
- Watch the video report at [youtu.be/aThIOYD7IqQ](http://youtu.be/aThIOYD7IqQ)

Jennifer Jackson-Preece chaired ECMI Advisory Council in 2013

As of January 2013, Dr Jennifer Jackson-Preece took over as chairperson of the ECMI Advisory Council. Jackson-Preece succeeded Professor James Hughes who held the post in 2012.

The ECMI Advisory Council works to promote the ECMI activities towards European institutions and specialists within the field of minority issues. The role of the Council is also to support the ECMI mission by establishing contacts with relevant persons, institutions and organizations.

The Council is a supportive body of the European Centre for Minority Issues not to be confused with the ECMI Executive Board. ECMI Advisory Council members are appointed by the ECMI Executive Board, while the Advisory Council chairperson is elected by the Council itself.

The current ECMI Advisory Council

The ECMI Advisory Council consists of eminent scholars within the field of minority issues. The current team was established in 2010. The 2010 team members have all excelled in the area of minority research and represent new disciplines that ECMI finds increasingly relevant to its research field.

The current members of the ECMI Advisory Council are Dr Jennifer Jackson-Preece, Professor James Hughes, Professor François Grin, Professor Thomas Diez, Dr Kinga Gal, Professor Joseph Marko, Professor Stefan Oeter, Professor Levente Salat, Dr Gwendolyn Sasse, Professor Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermarck, Professor Stefan Wolff, and Professor Will Kymlicka.

Dr Raul Cârstocea is new head of the Conflict & Security Cluster



ECMI has employed Dr Raul Cârstocea as head of the Conflict & Security Cluster. Cârstocea joined the ECMI office in Flensburg in October 2013.

The historical roots of ethnic conflicts in Europe will be paid more attention by ECMI in the years to come, foresees the new head of the Conflict & Security Cluster, Dr Raul Cârstocea.

The topic represents only one in Cârstocea's range of highly topical research interests. His interests also include

- the political uses of history and its role in fomenting conflict, racism, xenophobia, and discrimination
- the rise of populist right wing parties in Europe promoting a nationalist discourse and the radicalization of the mainstream political agenda
- hate speech and its proliferation in the new media
- Roma as the contemporary quintessential minority and comparisons of anti-Roma discourse with historical anti-Semitism

So far, Cârstocea's research interests have focused on anti-Semitism, Jewish History, nationalism and nation building processes in nineteenth and twentieth century Central and Eastern Europe.

Raul Cârstocea has published several articles on the development of anti-Semitism in Europe, on the ideology of Romania's interwar fascist movement, and on extreme right groups in contemporary Romania.

Raul Cârstocea is from Brasov, Romania. He obtained his Ph.D from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at the University College London. His Ph.D thesis was an examination of the role of anti-Semitism in the ideology of the Legion of the Archangel Michael – Romania's interwar fascist movement.

Prior to this, he obtained an MA in Nationalism Studies from Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, and an MA degree in Politics and Administration from the University of Bologna, Italy.

He has worked as Teaching Fellow at University College London, teaching courses in History and Politics, and held a Research Fellowship at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies.

ECMI Executive Board & Staff 2013

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POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

ECMI Seminar first step  
to pool knowledge of minority funding

On 5-6 December, ECMI hosted its first seminar on the distribution of financial support to national minority organizations.

Academics and practitioners from a range of disciplines and countries contributed at the 5-6 December seminar that took place in Flensburg. The Seminar, *Distribution of Financial Support to Organisations Representing National Minorities*, was organized by the ECMI Politics & Civil Society Cluster.

The seminar represented ECMI's first step towards advanced knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding the funding of minority organizations. A main aim of the seminar was to identify areas in need of further research. The wider perspective was and is to ensure future comprehensive recommendations to governments.

Picking-up on previous endeavors

In 2009, the Council of Europe based *Committee of Experts on Issues Relating to the Protection of National Minorities* (DH-MIN) decided to further its research. To this purpose, a questionnaire was drafted and sent to member states.

The states were asked to submit information on a range of topics related to the distribution, use, and auditing of financial support to minorities. More specifically, the DH-MIN was interested in the distribution of public financial support for projects concerning persons belonging to national minorities and their organizations.

The DH-MIN initiative was meant to fill a knowledge gap. The ambition was to understand the mechanisms underlying the distribution of financial support to minority organizations in Europe. In 2010, following the receipt of answers from 23 member states, a compilation of these answers were drafted and made public.

However, with the DH-MIN discontinuing its activity in 2010, the analysis of the contents was not carried out.

Quite surprisingly, both academic literature and policy analysis on this topic is also sparse; this in spite of the fundamental importance of ensuring adequate funding to minority

organizations for the effective participation of national minorities in political and public life.

Follow-up on the Seminar

A seminar report is currently in the production process. It will contain the main points arising from the discussion, and the insight provided by the different contributors.

Also following up on the seminar, ECMI will invite the seminar participants to contribute to the Centre's existing publications: *The Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe* (JEMIE) and the *European Yearbook on Minority Issues*.

Resources:

- Find and share this article at [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > categories: Politics & Civil Society



POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

ECMI Working Paper #70

*Lithuania's minority-related legislation: is there a legal vacuum?* The *ECMI Working Paper #70* is online since September. The Paper is authored by Hanna Vasilevich.

In the *ECMI Working Paper #70*, Project Research Associate Hanna Vasilevich analyses Lithuania's minority protection legislation prior to and after the 2010 lapse of Lithuania's *Law on Ethnic Minorities*.

The title, *Lithuania's minority-related legislation: is there a legal vacuum?*, is instigated by the OSCE High Commissioner Knut Vollebæk's call for the Lithuanian government "...to address the legal vacuum created by the lapse of the Law on Ethnic Minorities ..."

As a conclusion, the working paper identifies a number of problems of the current "vacuum" as well as of the situation before the lapse of the Law, such as:

- the Law on Ethnic Minorities had and the current legislation has shortcomings with regard to definitions
- in the absence of a valid Law on Ethnic Minorities, the relevant Lithuanian legislation is split between various legal acts
- it is not clear whether a consensus about a new law can be achieved in the short-term perspective
- how the new law can be brought in compliance with the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* and particularly articles 10 and 11.

Hanna Vasilevich is a Research Associate for the ECMI projects on Belarus, while also contributing to the *ECMI Politics & Civil Society Cluster*.

Resources:

- Find and share this article at [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > categories: Politics & Civil Society



ECMI Working Paper #69

The *ECMI Working Paper #69* by Dr Zora Popova was put online in June. The paper deals with the minority communities' participation in Kosovo elections.

*ECMI Working Paper #69, Minority Participation in Kosovo Elections: Opportunities and Challenges*, is authored by Dr Zora Popova, a Research Associate of the ECMI Citizenship & Ethics Cluster at the time.

According to Dr Popova, the newly established Kosovo democracy may be at risk. She recommends that attention be paid to what she calls "subjective" issues that challenge the participation of minorities in elections or census polls. In this respect, Dr Popova wishes to raise awareness of the issue among stakeholders, national and international organizations, and policy and decision makers.

The paper is based on findings gathered in the field by ECMI Kosovo, and it looks at concerns and issues raised by non-Albanian and non-Serb minority communities in Kosovo.

In the paper, Dr Popova assesses the concerns and issues in the light of the weight of the minority vote as provided by Kosovo's legislative framework.

Resources:

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CULTURE & DIVERSITY

CULTURE & DIVERSITY

# ECMI report online: Media in transition call upon new research

**Minorities, Media and Intercultural Dialogue: Opportunities and Challenges** identifies new research areas in the context of media transition and the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*. Since May, the report is available online.

By John Petersen

Plenty of issues are raised in the May report by ECMI. The issues originate in the ongoing media transition, and the question: how does the ongoing transition affect the promotion of *intercultural dialogue*?

The report is the result of a seminar that took place at the ECMI headquarters in January 2013. A media and minority professionals' forum of around 15 experts attended the seminar.

**Integration of minorities or of right wing cultures?** The report reflects the expert forum's answers to questions like, what is the "...role of the media in promoting intercultural dialogue?"

Naturally, this question leads to some more preliminary questions. The preliminary questions are also included in the report. They can probably be paraphrased like: "What makes a dialogue a dialogue?" "How can one know that a dialogue is not just two or more monologues?" "What makes a culture a culture, so that it qualifies to join an *intercultural dialogue*?"

*Intercultural dialogue* is a concept contained in the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (FCNM). This is why it was interesting for the expert forum altogether. The FCNM obliges the state parties to take action, and "... encourage ... *intercultural dialogue* and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding ... in particular in the fields of ... the media." (Article 6(1))

However, this contextualizes more issues raised by the expert forum. The issues can be paraphrased like: "If the purpose of *intercultural dialogue* is stability, does dialogue actually work?" "Does the absence of *intercultural dialogue* necessarily lead to instability?"

"If the purpose of *intercultural dialogue* is integration, should the target of efforts be right wing cultures, rather than 'old minorities' cultures' and their relations to 'old majority cultures?' "Does *intercultural dialogue* rather lead to assimilation?"

## Game change by media in transition

"In spite of all the questions, there is a growing consensus that *intercultural dialogue* leads to more harmonious relations between different cultures," explains Dr Federica Prina.

As the head of ECMI's *Culture & Diversity Cluster* at the time, she was the host of the expert forum and also its rapporteur.

This positive approach to *intercultural dialogue* is also the FCNM's approach. Moreover, when the media are considered important, it is because they are important channels for intercultural dialogue. They provide spaces where the positive effects of *intercultural dialogue* may manifest themselves.

When the media undergo radical change due to digitalization, social media, globalization and more, the changes also affect the possibility of having an *intercultural dialogue* altogether. Therefore; the issues raised by the expert forum can probably be distilled into one main question: Do the changes promote or prevent *intercultural dialogue*?

According to Dr Prina the changes that affect the media environment are "ongoing as we speak" and the experts are in many cases discussing moving targets. Among the changes that could lead to either promoting or preventing the positive role of the media are:

- The partial convergence of public service and private broadcasters
- The Google algorithm's promotion of user "narcissism"
- Multiplex providers emerging and becoming intermediary
- The policy effects of the current DNS regulation
- New media promoting user ghettoization
- The de-territorialization (digitalization) of radio and TV broadcasters
- Market driven censorship (Google etc.)

- Private enterprises' control of audiences
- Unfolding consequences of media spaces that are unregulated by governments
- Web 2.0 developing two-ways media communication
- Linguistic homogenization (English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese)

## Suggested interventions and more knowledge

The report and the expert forum suggest a number of interventions to be made in order to safeguard *intercultural dialogue* and to protect minorities.

However, according to Dr Prina, there are many new and emerging research areas hidden behind the bullet points that would benefit from further analysis. The overall question is:

If state parties of the FCNM take action in accordance with the convention, and "... encourage ... *intercultural dialogue* ... in the fields of ... the media", what measures are indeed effective?

## Knowledge will nourish ECMI's indicators' project

ECMI has initiated a project to develop impact indicators for the FCNM and the *European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages* (ECRML). This project is instrumental in assessing states' actions, including in the area of *intercultural dialogue*. Currently, state reports for the FCNM and ECRML are often superficial and at times anecdotal:

"While actions undertaken by states are listed, there is a general absence of evaluation of their impact," says the report.

"Naturally, the results of new research could very well nourish ECMI's indicators' project", explains Dr Prina.

Knowledge of what promotes and what prevents *intercultural dialogue* in the media during the ongoing transition period will foster ECMI's attempt to identify indicators. The indicators project is another ECMI research project that is also mentioned within this *Annual Report*. The lead question of the indicators project is: "How can the impact of the state parties' interventions be measured?"

## Resources:

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Culture & Diversity



Game change by media in transition; do the changes shatter or foster intercultural dialogue?







CULTURE & DIVERSITY

ECMI Working Paper #71

*Minorities, Media and Intercultural Dialogue* by Alkistis Zvakou, Fulvia Ghirardi, Sabrina Colombo, and Dr Federica Prina, was put online in November as *ECMI Working Paper #71*.

The focus of the *ECMI Working Paper #71* is on the encouragement of *intercultural dialogue* through the media, as described in Article 6(1) of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* (FCNM).

The main author of *Working Paper #71*, Dr Federica Prina, is former head of the *Culture & Diversity Cluster* at ECMI. Currently, she is a consultant at ECMI and editor-in-chief of the *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe* (JEMIE).

**Unpacking the notion of intercultural dialogue**  
According to the authors, the exact scope and significance of the FCNM expression *intercultural dialogue* remain nebulous.

Against this background, the working paper unpacks the notion of *intercultural dialogue* and its close relationship to kindred expressions such as *tolerance*, *mutual respect*, and *understanding*. The insights offered in the Paper fall in three parts:

- An introduction to the notion of *intercultural dialogue*, particularly with reference to article 6(1) of the FCNM

- An extraction of a series of principles, from the *Opinions* of the Advisory Committee on the FCNM (ACFC), which function as guidelines to states for the promotion of *intercultural dialogue* through the media.
- An analysis of how states interpret their obligation in relation to encouraging *intercultural dialogue* by means of the media. The analysis is performed on the basis of the state reports to the ACFC.

Several examples from the participating states' reports are provided.

**Authors suggest quantifiable data**  
In a concluding section, the authors list a number of difficulties that complicate the monitoring of the FCNM.

In this light, the authors bring forth the idea of requiring quantifiable and comparable data from the states. A system of indicators could guide the participating states. The idea is exemplified by quantifiers for reporting on the promotion of *intercultural dialogue* through the media.

Resources:

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu)  
> Categories: Culture & Diversity



ECMI Working Paper #64

In March, *Working Paper #64* by Dr Federica Prina was put online. The Paper analyzes Moldova's linguistic divide and the delay in the ratification of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*.

*Linguistic Divisions and the Language Charter – The Case of Moldova*. This is the full title of the third *ECMI Working Paper* © released in 2013.

*Working Paper #64* analyzes the reasons behind Moldova's linguistic divide. Moldova is deeply divided along language lines. The principal polarization is between the speakers of Russian and the speakers of the state language, Romanian-Moldovan. The two main linguistic groups inhabit two largely separate societal spheres, with different media and educational institutions.

Meanwhile, Moldova's ratification of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* is still pending.

After the analysis of the challenges posed by Moldova's linguistic divide, one cautious conclusion of the Paper is:

"Until one moves away from the 'institutionalization of ethnicity', attributes of cultural, ethnic and linguistic identity will continue to be placed antagonistically to each other, rather than being perceived as potentially compatible and multi-layered."

Resources:

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu)  
> Categories: Culture & Diversity



JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

ECMI Working Paper #65

*ECMI Working Paper #65* by Dr Andreea Cârstocea was issued in April.

*Accountability and political representation of national minorities: a forgotten link? Evidence from Romania*. This is the full title of the fourth *ECMI Working Paper* © issued in 2013.

The paper analyzes Romania's minority protection regime and uncovers several inefficient accountability mechanisms.

Cârstocea: Closed political elite represents Romania's minorities

**The representation of Romania's small national minorities is captured by a closed circle of political elites, claims ECMI Research Associate Dr Andreea Cârstocea.**

It is not necessarily ill will that makes the power to represent Romania's small national minorities end up in a closed political circle. On the contrary; Cârstocea is interested in a number of systemic flaws in the Romanian minority protection regime that undermines its own purpose: to ensure the political representation of national minorities.

ECMI Senior Research Associate Dr Cârstocea presented her analysis in March at the 37th Annual Conference of the *Irish Association for Russian, Central and East European Studies*. Cârstocea's paper carried the title *Accountability and descriptive representation: a forgotten link? Evidence from Romania*. The paper was issued in April as *ECMI Working Paper #65*.

**Political representatives without "ground control"**  
Cârstocea's paper focuses on the ways in which members of smaller national minorities in Romania are able to hold to account their political representatives. In other words; if smaller minorities are able to terminate the act of representation, should they become unhappy with their elected representative?

Cârstocea's answer to the question is negative. She shows that in the case of national minorities, elections are not enough to guarantee accountability. Complementary mechanisms are needed to ensure that minority representatives are accountable to their constituencies. Her paper points out a number of options.



Resources

- Find ECMI Working Papers via [www.ecmi.de](http://www.ecmi.de) > Publications > Working Papers
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Systemic flaws at a glance

While employing the concepts of vertical and horizontal accountability, Cârstocea's study points to a number of systemic flaws.

She shows that vertical accountability is undermined by the existence of an open electoral register. It makes elected representatives difficult to hold to account by the minority communities. She also shows how minority mass media are captured by political representatives. With a virtually non-existent civil society able to challenge representatives, one cannot meaningfully speak of vertical accountability in the case of minority representatives.

Horizontally, the situation is not much better, claims Cârstocea. Instead of instituting effective checks and balances, the Romanian system allows those already in power to mold the legislation in such a manner as to preserve the status quo. Thereby all competition can be removed.

Coupled with the lack of rules concerning transparency and accountability of spending the public funds allocated for each minority group, this suggests an almost complete lack of horizontal mechanisms of accountability for elected minority representatives.

Despite the nominal existence of vertical mechanisms in Romania, their poor functioning, coupled with minimum horizontal mechanism of accountability, results in Cârstocea's following conclusion:

The representation of small national minorities in Romania is 'captured' by a closed circle of political elites.

Dr Andreea Cârstocea is a research associate of the *ECMI Justice & Governance Cluster*.

Resources

- Find and share this article via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Justice & Governance



# Book: ECMI and partners explore “The Challenge of Non-Territorial Autonomy”

*The Challenge of Non-Territorial Autonomy* was published in autumn 2013. The article collection is co-edited by ECMI’s Dr Aleksander Osipov.

Volume 13 of the series *Nationalisms across the Globe* was published by Peter Lang in the autumn. The full title of the volume is *The Challenges of Non-Territorial Autonomy. Theory and Practice*. The volume editors are Ephraim Nimni, Queen’s University Belfast, ECMI Senior Research Associate Dr Alexander Osipov, and Professor David J. Smith, University of Glasgow.

## Navigating between individual and collective equality

According to the editors, multicultural liberal democracies do sincerely champion equality and individual human rights. However, they often have considerable difficulty in accommodating culturally diverse minority communities.

*The Challenge of Non-Territorial Autonomy* explores and evaluates non-territorial autonomy (NTA) as an important modality of ethnic and religious diversity management.

Employing both theoretical and empirical approaches, and also including the work of legal practitioners, the essays within the volume examine the challenges and possible solutions offered by different NTA models:

- Do they serve the effective participation of minorities in public life?

- Do they address issues such as the limits and possibilities of implementing NTA models in liberal democracies?
- Do they address the question of the extent to which NTA approaches can serve the goals of European integration?
- Do they address the question of serving the European minority protection framework?
- Which role do they play in resolving protracted territorial conflicts?

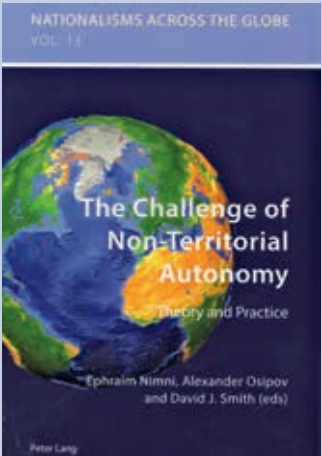
## Beginning and launch in Belfast

The starting point of collecting articles and for co-editing *The Challenges of Non-Territorial Autonomy. Theory and Practice* occurred in Belfast, November 2012, when the conference, *Minorities, Nations and Cultural Diversity - The Challenge of Non-Territorial Autonomy* took place at the The Queen’s University.

On 29 November 2013, Queen’s University was also the site of the first presentation of the book.

## Resources

- Acquire the book via [www.peterlang.com](http://www.peterlang.com)
- Find and share this information via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Publications
- [www.ecmi.de](http://www.ecmi.de) > Justice & Governance > Work Package: Non-Territorial Autonomy



# ECMI Issue Brief #29

The *ECMI Issue Brief #29* by Dr Alexander Osipov was issued in July. The brief questions the concept of *non-territorial autonomy*.

In the *ECMI Issue Brief #29, Changing the Angle: Does the Notion of Non-Territorial Autonomy Stand on Solid Ground?*, Dr Osipov sets out to question whether the notion of *non-territorial autonomy* is necessary and what added values it brings to the table.

The background to the *Issue Brief* is the current and relative popularity of the notion of

*non-territorial autonomy*. Dr Osipov argues that the popularity of the notion does not rest on real achievements in policy-making or research. Rather, the notion rests on several taken for granted assumptions.

## Resources

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# Osipov discussing *non-territorial autonomy* as an analytical category

There may be space for *non-territorial autonomy* (NTA) as an analytical category, suggests Dr Alexander Osipov. In 2013, among other occasions, his point was made at the ECPR conference in Mainz.

In March, Dr Alexander Osipov presented his paper *Can ‘non-territorial autonomy’ serve as a category of analysis? Between ‘thick’ and ‘thin’ approaches*. The occasion was the 41st Joint Session of Workshops that was convened by the *European Consortium for Political Research* (ECPR). Dr Osipov’s paper was presented in the Workshop No.21, *Non-Territorial Autonomy, Multiple Cultures and Politics of Stateless Nations* at the *Johannes Gutenberg Universität*.

## Excerpt from the abstract

The following is an excerpt from the abstract of the paper; *Can ‘non-territorial’ autonomy serve as a category of analysis? Between ‘thick’ and ‘thin’ approaches*.

NTA serves as a category of practice in politics, public administration and civil activism. As an applied analytical category, NTA has acquired a variety of meanings; from a label on minority related activities and institutions (a ‘thin’ approach) to a clear structural feature or competence of an organization (a ‘thick’ approach).

The main problem with employing NTA as an analytical category stems from the dominant essentialist and group-centric approach.

Almost all interpretations of NTA implicitly or explicitly rest on uncritical and often unreflective reification of notions such as ‘group’, ‘community’, and ‘culture’ and assume that a group is a self-evident social actor and an internally cohesive social unit.

This significantly limits the analytic perspective and obstructs important research agendas. If the uncritical assumptions are withdrawn and ethnic groups are regarded as merely a way of framing certain activities, most respective interpretative schemes collapse.

Considering NTA as a category of analysis that is not based on a ‘groupist’ approach, is the author’s suggestion. Insofar, there is space for NTA as an analytical category.

## Resources

- [www.ecmi.de](http://www.ecmi.de) > Justice & Governance > Work Package: Non-Territorial Autonomy
- Find and share this information via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Justice & Governance

# New ECMI book: “Institutional Legacies of Communism”

*Institutional Legacies of Communism – Change and Continuities in Minority Protection*, by Cordell, Agarín, and Osipov, was published in June. It is available through Routledge.

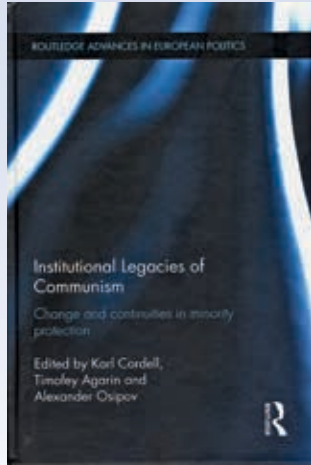
Twenty years after the demise of communist policy, *Institutional Legacies of Communism – Change and Continuities in Minority Protection* evaluates the continuing communist legacies in the current minority protection systems and legislations across a number of states in post-communist Europe.

The book is edited by ECMI Senior Research Associate Dr Alexander Osipov together with Professor Karl Cordell of Plymouth University, and former ECMI Research Associate Dr Timofey Agarín, who is now Lecturer at Queen’s University Belfast.

The co-edited book is a result of the conference *Adjusting to Europe: Institutional Legacies of Communism and Ethnocultural Diversity* that was organized by ECMI in 2011, hosted by the *Vytautas Magnus University*, and funded by the *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*.

## Resources

- Acquire the book via [www.Routledge.com](http://www.Routledge.com)
- Find and share this information via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Publications







JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

Malloy presenting contemporary accommodation of minority groups to Turkey MPs

*Continuum and interplay.* These were key words of a presentation in Berlin by ECMI Director Dr Tove H. Malloy. The presentation took place in October, and the audience consisted of visiting MPs of Turkey.

Contemporary accommodations of minority groups describe a continuum of conflict prevention models, and the interplay between national and international protection is to be underscored. These were some of Dr Malloy's points in Berlin, when she introduced the main European patterns of minority accommodation. Dr Malloy's presentation was part of a study visit programme for MPs from Turkey – also including MPs of Kurdish background. The study visit in Berlin was organized by the Berghof Foundation and the Democratic Progress Institute (DPI).

**A continuum of conflict prevention models**  
During the Berlin presentation, Dr Malloy explained conflict prevention models as spanning from weak to strong. The models are weak or strong in terms of their minority protection ability. However, from the perspective of governments they can also be interpreted as weak or strong in terms of the burdens they imply. Six common prevention models that can be placed upon this continuum are *consultative*

*bodies, reserved seats, reduced thresholds, non-territorial public or private minority institutions, minority self-government, and territorial arrangements.*  
The models differ in terms of design, and they also promote different types of minority rights. Within her presentation, Dr Malloy introduced the types of minority rights and the differences between them, also illustrating them through a number of different cases.

**The European interplay**  
Dr Malloy also explained how European minorities' protection claims can be expressed at both the national and international levels. In addition to the commitment to international law, governments often add and negotiate specific minority protection models. This is why a complete picture of contemporary European minority accommodation patterns must be described as an *interplay* between national and international protection. ECMI expects this presentation to be issued as an ECMI Working Paper © shortly.

**Resources**

- Find and share this information via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Justice & Governance

ECMI Working Paper #72

*Renewed Non-Discrimination and Equality promises for National Minorities in Europe*, by Liefke Dolmans and Elisabeth Kühn, was issued in November as *ECMI Working Paper #72*.

In *Working Paper #72* of ECMI, the authors present the evidence they found for the use of positive action and renewed forms of non-discrimination mechanisms in Europe. However, the authors also present their finding that the reforms reflected in the new action are in their infancy, and as such they are only seldom used for the improvement of the situation of national minorities.

The question posed in the *ECMI Working Paper #72* is, if there is evidence for the proper use of recently renewed, extended non-discrimination European equality mechanisms such as *Full and Effective Equality* and *Substantive Equality*. The authors, Liefke Dolmans and Elisabeth Kühn, undertook the research behind the analysis of the paper while they were interns at ECMI in 2012.

**Resources**

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“European Yearbook of Minority Issues” volume 10 published

*European Yearbook of Minority Issues 2011* is now available. The 10th volume features a special focus section on Roma.

The 2011 *European Yearbook of Minority Issues* (EYMI) is now available from Brill. Aside from book reviews, the 2011 edition contains titles of Joshua Castellino, Kathleen Cavanaugh, Francesco Palermo, Kyriaki Topidi, Federica Prina, Boshko Stankovski, Dimitry Kochenov, Vadim Poleshchuk, Aleksejs Dimitrovs, Geoff Gilbert, Yaron Matras, Barbara Tiefenbacher, Kristin Henrard, Roberta Medda-Windischer, Peter Vermeersch, Yana Kavrakova, Marton Rovid, Stephan Muller, Rumyan Russinov, Bill Bowring, Charlotte Altenhoener, Vesna Crnić-Grotić, Stephanie Marsal, Jennifer Croft, Gabriel N. Toggenburg, Karen McLaughlin, Michele Buteau, Belen Rodriguez de Alba, Aleksandra Plesko, Szabolcs Pogonyi, Heidi Ost, Mine Yildirim, Sergiu Constantin, Gerald Steinacher, and Sofiya Zahova.

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- Acquire the EYMI and find the table of contents at Brill's landing page [www.brill.com](http://www.brill.com) > Publications > Reference Works
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Acquire the “European Yearbook of Minority Issues” at [www.brill.com](http://www.brill.com)

Facts about the “European Yearbook of Minority Issues”

The *European Yearbook of Minority Issues* is edited by ECMI and EURAC - European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano Institute for Minority Rights in Italy. The *European Yearbook of Minority Issues* provides a critical and timely review of contemporary developments in minority-majority relations in Europe. It combines analysis, commentary and documentation in relation to conflict management, international legal developments and domestic legislation affecting minorities in Europe.

Apart from providing a unique annual overview of minority issues for both scholars and practitioners in this field, the Yearbook is an indispensable reference tool for libraries and research institutes, as well as governments and international organizations.

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## Malloy: The debate on multiculturalism needs a correction

The European critique of multiculturalism is uninformed, explains Director Dr Malloy in *ECMI Issue Brief #28*. Add traditional minorities' experiences to improve the level of the debate, she recommends.

For centuries, Europe has been a culturally diverse society. And for centuries, governments have had to deal with diversity management. Since the middle of the 20th century, mechanisms to govern multicultural societies have been implemented with regard to traditional minorities by many European governments. And the mechanisms have worked.

These and many more observations in the *ECMI Issue Brief #28*, *Beyond the Limits of Multiculturalism: The Role of Europe's Traditional Minorities*, lead Dr Malloy to conclude that "a return to 'old' multiculturalism could inform and improve the much maligned debate on the limits of multiculturalism."

### Add traditional minorities' experiences

The *ECMI Issue Brief #28* discusses the role of traditional minorities in multiculturalism, in particular in terms of institutional arrangements at different levels of government:

"[T]raditional minorities have been part of the European fabric of cultures for centuries,

and they have contributed to making multiculturalism work through a number of inter-cultural dialogue mechanisms," reads the *ECMI Issue Brief #28*. And further:

"In the debate on multiculturalism in Europe, traditional minorities are often excluded even though their experience with diversity is longer than most. This is because the received wisdom in Europe seems to equate multiculturalism with immigration and lately mainly with Muslim communities."

### Beyond Merkel and Cameron

The title, *Beyond the Limits of Multiculturalism*, is obviously an attempt to contradict what has become a "received wisdom" of Europeans; that the concept of multiculturalism has exhausted its possibilities. Merkel and Cameron are but the most famous proclaimers of the concept's failure.

### Resources:

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Citizenship & Ethics

## ECMI Working Paper #66

*Working Paper #66* is authored by Dr Zora Popova. It was released in May and is entitled *Promoting Minority Rights through Education*.

*Working Paper #66* examines the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) as a tool for fostering minority rights in Europe.

The paper also examines the Charter's potential as a lever for implementing the provisions of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM).

### Resources:

- Find *ECMI Working Papers* © via [www.ecmi.de](http://www.ecmi.de) > Publications
- Find and share this announcement via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Citizenship & Ethics



## ECMI co-organized ECPR workshop on European minority empowerment

How can Europe move beyond protection towards the empowerment of minorities? This was one of the main questions of an ECPR workshop which took place in March, co-organized by ECMI Director Tove Malloy.

In March, the *European Consortium for Political Research* (ECPR) convened its *41st Joint Session of Workshops* in Mainz. From 11-16 March the workshops were carried out at the *Johannes Gutenberg Universität* in Mainz.

ECMI Director Dr Tove H. Malloy and David J. Galbreath of the *University of Bath* were organizers of the workshop on *National Minorities between protection and empowerment: Contemporary minority politics in Europe*.

The workshop intended to thematize the relationship between European minority protection and European minority empowerment. The point that Galbreath and Malloy wished to bring to the workshop was that the European minority rights regime has pushed protection over empowerment as a solution to the minorities "problem" in Europe.

### The impact of the minority rights regime

The workshop aimed to look comparatively at the impact of the minority rights regime throughout Europe. It paid particular attention to European organizations, states and national minority communities. The workshop's comparative framework was based on the following questions:

- What is the relationship between European approaches to minorities and the impact on the ground?
- How have the ethnic conflicts of the early Cold War period shaped national and regional methods of ethnic management?
- How can European organizations and states move beyond management and protection towards empowerment?

This was reflected in the papers selected for the workshop.

The workshop was supported by the *Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft* (DFG).

### Resources:

- Find the papers selected for the workshop via [www.ecpr.eu](http://www.ecpr.eu)
- Find and share this announcement via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Citizenship & Ethics

## Malloy discusses Nordic autonomies as shapers of regional co-operation

The first 2013 issue of the *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights* includes Dr Malloy's discussion on Nordic autonomies as shapers of European regional co-operation.

The participation of traditional minority autonomies is seldom discussed in relation to territorial management in Europe. Yet, several traditional minorities and indigenous people enjoying autonomous powers participate in regional co-operation efforts.

ECMI Director Dr Tove H. Malloy's article, *Nordic (Minority) Autonomies and Territorial Management in Europe: Empowerment through Regionalisation?*, discusses the involvement of Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Åland Islands in the development and co-operation of European so-called macro-regions.

Regional co-operation has long been a cornerstone of Europe's integration project, and *macro-regions* is the latest concept in the effort to strengthen regions economically in the wake of the onset of globalization and global economic crises.

### Everything but conflict prone trouble makers

In contradistinction to the perceived notion of traditional minorities as "conflict prone trouble makers", it is argued that in the effort to maintain peace and overcome persistent challenges common to both majorities and minorities, traditional minorities are increasingly pro-active and are working for the survival of their autonomous regions.

### Resources:

- Find and share this information via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Citizenship & Ethics





# Natela Grigalashvili's "Ethnic Minorities in Georgia" exhibited in Flensburg

The exhibition, *Ethnic Minorities in Georgia*, consists of photographic works by Natela Grigalashvili. In autumn, the photos were displayed at the Danish Library in Flensburg. ECMI Project Coordinator, Georgian Tamari Bulia opened the exhibition with a lecture.

*Ethnic Minorities in Georgia* was originally launched as an exhibition in March 2010. Together with the accompanying booklet it was prepared by the Committee for Human Rights and Civil Integration of the Parliament of Georgia and the European Centre for Minority Issues Caucasus.

In 2013, ECMI brought the photographic works to Flensburg. The works were displayed in the Danish Library in Flensburg from 26 September.

ECMI's Tamari Bulia presented and opened the exhibition with a lecture, *Georgia – Small Country with a Wide Range of Cultural and Ethnic Diversity*. The presentation took place within a series of Thursday lectures of the Danish Library located at Norderstrasse in Flensburg.

The idea of bringing the exhibition to Flensburg was to give visitors a glimpse of Georgia's astonishing diversity.

**Natela Grigalashvili catching Georgia's diversity**  
Natela Grigalashvili was born in Khashuri, Georgia in 1965. Her biography is rich and varied, with many activities, awards, exhibitions, and a wide range of work experience. She is mostly known as a photographer and decorator.

In *Ethnic Minorities in Georgia* Grigalashvili visualises Georgia as a multi-cultural state that is enriched with a wealth of diverse population groups.

Some sixteen per cent of Georgia's population is made up by persons belonging to ethnic minorities, and the country is home to over twenty sizeable ethnic communities. The exhibited photos covered a range of them, including Azeris, Armenians, Eastern Slavs, Yezidi-Kurds, Assyrians, Ossetians, Kists, Avars, Udins, Jews and Roma.

In Grigalashvili's lense, the expressive subjects of her works are very much alive and present and while different and sometimes even exotic, they are at the same time very human and even familiar.

The exhibition, *Ethnic Minorities in Georgia*, is one of many projects supported by ECMI Caucasus as part of Denmark's Caucasus Programme implemented with Georgia in partnership with the Council of Europe.

## Resources:

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Announcements
- Find more photos by Natela Grigalashvili at [bit.ly/1d37o0o](http://bit.ly/1d37o0o)



Azerbaijani shepherd, Iori valley.  
Photo from the exhibition  
"Ethnic Minorities in Georgia"  
by Natela Grigalashvili.



Greek priest Mikheil Aivazov,  
Tsintsikaro village, Tetrtskaro.  
Photo from the exhibition  
"Ethnic Minorities in Georgia"  
by Natela Grigalashvili.

**GEORGIA**  
The ECMI presents Natela Grigalashvili's photographic works on Georgia's ethnic minorities.



Some sixteen per cent of Georgia's population is made up by persons belonging to ethnic minorities, and the country is home to over twenty sizeable ethnic communities.

The exhibited photos cover a range of them, including Azeris, Armenians, Eastern Slavs, Yezidi-Kurds, Assyrians, Ossetians, Kists, Avars, Udins, Jews and Roma.

In Grigalashvili's lense, the expressive subjects of her works are very much alive and present and while different and sometimes even exotic, they are at the same time very human and even familiar.

**ECMI PHOTO-EXHIBITION**  
**26 SEPT. – 31 OCT. 2013**  
**FLensburg, GERMANY**  
Dansk Centralbibliotek for Sydkejsling  
Flensburg, Norderstrasse 55

Current tickets 26,-  
1st/2nd 17,-/10,-

EUROPEAN CENTRE  
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for Minority Issues (ECMI)  
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## KOSOVO

## KOSOVO

## “Supporting Effective Governance for Minority Communities in Kosovo”

The overall goal of the project *Supporting Effective Governance for Minority Communities in Kosovo* was to contribute to stable inter-ethnic relations in Kosovo by improving governance on community issues.

It targeted a wide range of government institutions as well as civil society organizations (CSOs), and focused on sustainable tools for policy, capacity-building and monitoring purposes.

One of the key activities of the project was to contribute to mainstreaming community rights within the Kosovo civil service, as a means to ensure a more effective implementation of the legal framework. To this end, ECMI Kosovo, in close co-operation with the *Kosovo Institute of Public Administration* (KIPA), developed a comprehensive and interactive training curriculum on community rights and gender mainstreaming for civil servants.

The curriculum was tested through a series of pilot trainings conducted in June and July 2013. The trainings were attended, and positively evaluated, by about 40 local and central level civil servants.

In order to ensure the implementation of this training beyond the duration of the project, a group of talented and motivated individuals were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide the training through a ‘training of trainers’ in October and November 2013, and concerted efforts were made to integrate this curriculum into the regular Kosovo civil servants training programme.

To date, it has already been successfully incorporated into KIPA's database of trainings.

### Piloting rights indicators

A further component of the project was to contribute towards a more effective system of the monitoring and evaluation of community rights in Kosovo. To work towards this goal, ECMI Kosovo conducted extensive research and completed a working paper presenting the proposal to develop, test and introduce an indicator-based community rights ‘monitoring and evaluation system’ for the Kosovo context.

As a result of broad consultation, an agreement was reached to implement a pilot phase on language rights indicators, specifically

on the work of the *Assembly of Kosovo*, in co-operation with the *Kosovo Office of the Language Commissioner* under the *Office of the Prime Minister*.

A comprehensive indicators matrix was developed and corresponding data collected; the findings of this pilot phase have been compiled into a final draft report and presented at a conference. Various stakeholders have praised the value of the approach adopted, and the *Language Commissioner* has repeatedly and strongly expressed intentions to continue working on and using language indicators in 2014.

### Input to government bodies

Within the framework of the project *Supporting Effective Governance for Minority Communities in Kosovo*, ECMI Kosovo also monitored the work and provided inputs to various government bodies and mechanisms dealing with communities in Kosovo, including the *Consultative Council for Communities* and the *Working Group on Employment of Non-majority Community Members* established under the auspices of the *Office of Community Affairs* under the *Office of the Prime Minister*.

### Publications and tools developed

A series of practical and interactive tools and publications on minority communities in Kosovo were also developed or updated under this project:

- The *Ethno-Political Map of Kosovo*, featuring a wealth of interactive socio-economic, political and demographic information on communities in Kosovo;
- A *Community Rights Legislative & Policy Database*, offering easy access to all key legal and policy documents related to community issues in Kosovo;
- The guidebook *Communities in Kosovo: A guidebook for professionals working with communities in Kosovo*;
- The booklet *Communities: Know Your Rights – A booklet for communities and their members*;
- The booklet *Civil Society Participation in Decision-Making Processes*.

### Community rights and advocacy skills programme

Finally, a comprehensive ‘community rights and advocacy skills programme’ was implemented. The aim was to strengthen the skills and knowledge of CSOs from minority communities to advocate more effectively for their rights.

For further information on this programme, see the website on ECMI Kosovo's ongoing projects *Empowering Civil Society to Participate Effectively in Policy and Decision-Making Processes through Dialogue with Government Institutions*.

### Operation and funding

*Supporting Effective Governance for Minority Communities in Kosovo* is administered by ECMI and implemented by ECMI Kosovo. The project is made possible by financial support from the *Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*. The ‘community rights and advocacy skills programme’ and the guidebook on *Civil Society Participation in Decision-Making Processes* was co-funded by the *European Union Office in Kosovo*.



### Resources

- Find the working paper, *Community Rights Monitoring & Evaluation for the Kosovo Context*, via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Reports & Studies
- Find the final draft report, *Monitoring and Evaluation of Language Rights: Piloting the Use of Indicators in the Work of the Assembly of Kosovo*, via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Reports & Studies
- Find the *Ethno-Political map of Kosovo* at [www.ethnopoliticalmap-ks.com](http://www.ethnopoliticalmap-ks.com)
- Find the *Community Rights Legislative & Policy Database* at [www.communityrightsdatabase-ks.com](http://www.communityrightsdatabase-ks.com)
- Find the guidebook *Communities in Kosovo: A guidebook for professionals working with communities in Kosovo* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Handbooks & Manuals
- Find the booklet *Communities: Know Your Rights - A booklet for communities and their members* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Handbooks & Manuals
- Find the guidebook on *Civil Society Participation in Decision-Making Processes* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Handbooks & Manuals
- Find and share 2013 stories from ECMI Kosovo via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: ECMI Kosovo, or via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org)





KOSOVO

KOSOVO

“Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process”

The project *Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process* has materialized in a range of activities and results throughout 2013, out of which the following are highlights.

The goal of the project was to further the socioeconomic and political inclusion of Kosovo’s communities by supporting the municipal institutions and local communities in the field of local economic development.

**Report on Socioeconomic Conditions**

In January, ECMI Kosovo presented a report on *Socioeconomic Conditions in Northern Kosovo*. A conference organized in Prishtina framed the presentation.

The report was based on a questionnaire administered to 721 respondents in Mitrovica North, Leposavić/Leposaviq, ZubinPotok and Zvečan/Zveqan to identify the population’s perceptions, needs and concerns on the following socioeconomic issues: Healthcare, Education, Social Welfare and Employment.

Northern Kosovo is mainly populated by Serbs.

**Policy paper on minority entrepreneurship**

In May, ECMI Kosovo published the policy paper *Minority Entrepreneurship in Kosovo: Opportunities and Challenges*.

The policy paper aimed to highlight the challenges faced by ‘Small and Medium Enterprises’ owned or managed by members of Kosovo’s minority communities and vulnerable and marginalized groups. It also provided recommendations for the enterprises’ effective integration into the larger Kosovar business environment.

The paper was released on the day of the official launch of the *Association of Serb Entrepreneurs* (ASP). This association was established with the support of ECMI Kosovo to contribute to the integration of the Serb business community into broader Kosovo networks.

**Information bulletins on Kosovo local elections**

In October, November and December 2013, ECMI Kosovo published a series of three information

bulletins respectively analyzing the (a.) pre-election situations and the major issues at stake for minority communities, the (b.) results of the first election round, and the (c.) final results of the elections, together with their impact for Serb-majority municipalities.

The bulletins were also based on ECMI Kosovo’s short-term observation mission conducted in the field on the day of the elections.

**Report on the repatriation and reintegration process**

In December, ECMI Kosovo published a report to document the repatriation and reintegration process in Kosovo.

Repatriated persons are often not aware of the services allocated to them due to a lack of awareness about the process. Since 2012, steps have been taken to raise awareness; however, issues still exist at central and local levels.

Hence, the report *The Repatriation Process in Kosovo* addressed the institutions within the government that assist with repatriation at both the local and central levels. The report also concentrated on the policy instruments adopted, such as the *Strategy for the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons*, the *Action Plan on the Implementation of the Strategy for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons*, as well as addressing the regulation management of the programme.

**Handbook on local economic development**

In December, ECMI Kosovo published a legal handbook for municipal officials with the English title *Local Economic Development in Kosovo’s Newly-Established Municipalities*.

The handbook provided an overview and assessment of the central and local level legal framework in five newly established municipalities of Kosovo, related to local economic development; land use and expropriation; registration, inspection and taxation of private enterprises; and issues related to publicly-owned enterprises, public property and public services.

The municipalities were Gračanica/Gračanicë, Klokot/Klllokot, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš / Partesh, and Ranilug /Ranillug.

The objective of this handbook was to help municipal officials from minority communities in their attempt to develop, formulate, and implement business conducive policies at the local level.

**Operation and funding**

*Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process* is administered by ECMI and implemented by ECMI Kosovo.

The project is made possible by financial support from the *Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland*, and the report on *Socioeconomic Conditions in Northern Kosovo* was realized with the joint support of the *United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office*.

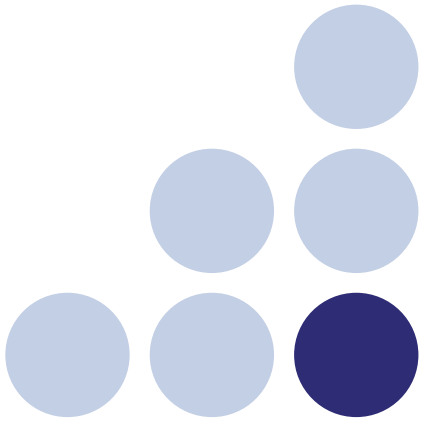
**Resources**

- Find the report on *Socioeconomic Conditions in Northern Kosovo* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Reports & Studies
- Find the policy brief on *Minority Entrepreneurship in Kosovo* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Policy briefs
- Find the Kosovo local elections information bulletins, *Local Elections in Kosovo: Focus on Minority Communities Candidates*, *Kosovo Local Elections – Which Self-Government for Minority Communities?*, and *Kosovo Local Elections 2013: Lessons Learnt for Minority Communities* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Press releases & information bulletins
- Find the report on *The Repatriation Process in Kosovo Institutional organisations, legal framework, lessons learnt and remaining challenges* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Reports & studies
- Find the handbook on *Local Economic Development in Kosovo’s Newly-Established Municipalities* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Handbooks & manuals
- Find and share 2013 stories from ECMI Kosovo via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: ECMI Kosovo, or via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org)

ECMI Kosovo co-creates youth network in North Mitrovica

During the first semester of 2013, ECMI Kosovo implemented the *Youth of Mitrovica!ë for a Democratic Society* project in partnership with the *Association for Peace Kosovo*.

The project resulted in the creation of a network of young activists from northern Kosovo, who developed their knowledge in Human Rights and Citizenship, Democracy and its Historical Developments, and in Civic Participation. This project was funded by the *Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands* in Kosovo.





## KOSOVO

## KOSOVO

## Empowering the civil society of Kosovo



Prishtina in December 2013; certificate ceremony for participants of the "Advocacy Skills & Community Rights Programme".  
Photo: Ann Madsen.

On 28-30 June, ECMI Kosovo conducted the first sessions of its *Advocacy Skills & Community Rights Programme* for Kosovo civil society organizations (CSOs).

The kick-off workshop, held in Struga, Macedonia, aimed to present an overview of the community rights legislative and institutional framework in Kosovo, including mechanisms of redress to address potential violations.

Participants, from the Serb, Roma, Bosniak, Turkish, Gorani and Egyptian communities had the opportunity to share their experiences and discuss challenges they face with regard to the use of languages, access to employment, and other areas.

### Six advocacy proposals nurtured

Throughout 2013, selected CSOs participated in training sessions with the aim of enhancing their advocacy skills and capacities to be better able to participate in decision-making processes and address issues of their concern.

Moreover, four CSOs and two CSO coalitions were selected to benefit from the project's activities for the duration of 1½ years. The CSOs and CSO coalitions received special training, technical and legal support, as well as advocacy sub-grants to realize concrete advocacy activities.

### Establishing intra-ethnic networks

In 2013, in partnership with the *Communication for Social Development* (CSD) and the *Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organisation in Kosovo* (NRAEWOK), ECMI Kosovo conducted an assessment to evaluate which

communities have the greatest potential to establish an intra-ethnic network and have the best modalities to establish such a network.

This assessment included a series of interviews with key CSO representatives of each community and other relevant actors.

Two communities were selected for support:

- Serb youth CSOs working in the municipalities of Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Viti/Vitina, Parteš/Partesh, Klokot/Kllokot, Novobërdë/Novobardo, Ranilug/Ranillug and Kamenicë/Kamenica;
- Gorani CSOs working in the municipalities of Dragaš/Drageash and Prizren.

The aim of these two networks is to increase intra-ethnic cooperation among CSOs in Kosovo.

### Guidebook on civil Society participation

ECMI Kosovo developed a guidebook on *Civil Society Participation in Decision-making Processes*. The guidebook is meant to contribute to strengthening the role of CSOs in public participation processes in Kosovo.

The guidebook provides a clear overview of the existing CSO participation mechanisms in Kosovo and on how to effectively use them. The guidebook draws on ECMI Kosovo's vast experience working with civil society and government institutions in Kosovo and concrete laws, including the *Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo* and the *Law on Local Self-Government*.

### Database of Kosovo CSOs

An online database of Kosovo CSOs has also been developed in 2013.

The *ECMI Kosovo Minority CSO Database* includes information on CSOs from non-majority communities in Kosovo, the scope of activity on the field, which communities do they represent, and which territory their activities cover.

### Funding and partners

All the activities are part of the project *Empowering Civil Society to Participate in Policy and Decision Making Processes* that is funded by the *European Union Office in Kosovo*.

The guidebook and the *Advocacy Skills & Community Rights Programme* are also part of

the project *Supporting Effective Governance for Minority Communities in Kosovo* that is co-funded by the *Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*. The programme is implemented in partnership with CSD and NRAEWOK.

### Resources

- Find the guidebook on *Civil Society Participation in Decision-Making Processes* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Handbooks & Manuals
- Find the project website including the *ECMI Kosovo Minority CSO Database* at [www.ecmikosovo-empoweringcso.org](http://www.ecmikosovo-empoweringcso.org)

## Supporting the Consultative Council for Communities

In April, ECMI Kosovo started a new project aiming to strengthen the political participation of Kosovo's minorities through the *Consultative Council for Communities* (CCC).

The new two-year project is a continuation of ECMI's long term efforts to support the CCC as a key body for minority community participation in Kosovo's legislative and decision making processes.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the CCC's voice vis-à-vis government institutions and to improve the link between civil society members of the CCC and the local communities whose rights they represent.

### Key issues identified

On 7-9 June, ECMI Kosovo hosted a workshop with members of the CCC and its Secretariat, *Office of the Prime Minister* of Kosovo, and *Legal Office of the Office of the President of Kosovo*.

During the workshop organized in Durrës, Albania, three key issues were identified as debilitating to the work of the CCC: firstly, the lack of clarity regarding the division of responsibilities between the members of the CCC and its Secretariat, secondly, the regulation of fees and procedures for financial compensation for the members of the CCC, and thirdly, the lack of adequate budget allocation to the CCC by Kosovo Government and Assembly.

Consequently, ECMI Kosovo hired a team of experts that worked closely with the secretariat, the *Legal Office of the Office of the President* and with the CCC addressing the above issues.

### Puzzle pieces for an effective CCC

On 20 June, the CCC approved unanimously the *Code of Conduct*, which, among others stipulates the relationship of the CCC and accredited organizations.

Further, on 25 July, the CCC unanimously approved the *Rules of Procedures*, which govern the work of the CCC, its working groups, as well as its functioning and decision-making procedures.

ECMI Kosovo has worked closely with the *Office of the President*, its *Permanent Secretary*, and has drafted the *Regulation on Financial Compensation for Members of the Council*. The regulation takes into account the best practices of similar government bodies and is in accordance with the government policies governing this sector.

The *Code of Conduct*, *Rules and Procedures* and the *Regulation on Financial Compensation* were signed by the *President of the Republic of Kosovo*, who has the sole authority over the CCC.

The project *Supporting Civil Society Members of Consultative Council of Communities* is funded by the *Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*.

### Resources

- Find and share 2013 stories from ECMI Kosovo via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: ECMI Kosovo, or via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org)





# „Promoting the Economic Empowerment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women in Kosovo“

*Promoting the Economic Empowerment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women in Kosovo* was a project the ECMI Kosovo carried out in 2013. The aim was to promote the economic empowerment of these women over a range of activities.

Over its implementation, ECMI Kosovo and its partner organized twelve training sessions on entrepreneurial skills for 41 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women and girls.

As a result, eight women and girls were selected to continue further with the coaching sessions provided by a contracted consultation company for five months. These women were supported on an individual basis to prepare a business plan for their innovative ideas and to apply for available business grants given by relevant stakeholders.

A second component of the project was to raise awareness and advocate for more action on the economic empowerment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women.

To that end, ECMI Kosovo organized five local-level roundtable discussions on the challenges faced by women from these communities in the field of economic security. In addition, ten strategic meetings with the relevant ministries were conducted.

Floriye Smaqi  
presenting her  
business plan at  
ECMI Kosovo's  
capacity building  
training on  
professional and  
entrepreneurial skills;  
May 2013, Gjakovë/  
Đakovica. Photo:  
Zihnie Gurmani.



Finally, a report on *Promoting the Economic Empowerment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women in Kosovo* was published.

This project was funded by the joint UN Women/UNDP/EU project on *Women, Peace and Security*.

## Resources

- Find the report *Promoting the Economic Empowerment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women in Kosovo* via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Publications > Reports and studies

# Enhancing education for vulnerable and disadvantaged children

In 2013, ECMI Kosovo began implementing a project which aimed at reducing the number of school drop-outs in six Kosovo municipalities.

Despite a strong legal basis for an inclusive education system in Kosovo, children from vulnerable and marginalized groups - especially Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children, children with disabilities and repatriated children - continue to face significant challenges in their education. The issue of school drop-outs and out-of-school children is particularly alarming.

The project aims to achieve its objective through strengthening the capacities of municipal officials and drop-out prevention teams in the schools and municipalities.

Throughout the year, ECMI Kosovo conducted training sessions on programming and planning interventions to reduce numbers of school drop-outs and subsequently supported six Kosovo municipalities in drafting comprehensive situation analyses on out-of-school children and corresponding action plans for their municipality.

The project represents a continuation of previous collaboration with UNICEF in developing the capacities of municipal officials in delivering improved education to minority communities.

## Resources

- Find current and past ECMI Kosovo projects via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Our work



December 2013. Albanian and Serbian municipal officials preparing dialogues during a joint class exercise in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje. Photo: Nejla Ayvazi.

# Support to ministerial strategy development

In 2013, ECMI Kosovo supported the *Ministry for Community and Return* (MCR) in the development of a new government strategy for the period of 2014-2018. Activities took place as part of the project *Support to the Ministry for Community and Return in developing 2014-2018 Strategy*.

The support consisted of policy research and expert advice. Firstly, ECMI Kosovo conducted a comprehensive study with the aim to assess the current situation of communities and returns in Kosovo, and to evaluate the impact of the *MCR 2009-2013 Strategy for Communities and Returns* while providing concrete policy recommendations.

This study was conducted in a participatory manner, with the close involvement of all relevant stakeholders, and involved interviews, focus group discussions, a survey and a literature review. The study stressed the importance of improving the legal framework on returns, addressing the pressing needs of internally displaced people and developing strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Secondly, throughout the strategy development process, ECMI Kosovo provided both technical support and expert advice to the MCR and to the strategy *Working Group*.

The project was supported by the *British Embassy* and by the *Embassy of Norway* in Kosovo.

## Resources

- Find current and past ECMI Kosovo projects via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Our work

# Language courses for municipal officials

In 2013, ECMI Kosovo organized and conducted courses in Kosovo's two official languages for municipal officials in ten ethnically mixed municipalities over a period of 4 months.

The training courses in Albanian and Serbian were intended to increase the municipalities' capacities in providing services in both official languages. At the end of the courses, around 200 municipal officials were awarded certificates for regular participation.

The project *Official Language Acquisition in Kosovo* was supported by the *OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities* and the Kosovo Office of the Language Commissioner under the *Office of the Prime Minister*.

The language courses are expected to continue in 2014.

## Resources

- The *OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*, Astrid Thors, paid the project a visit in October; media coverage via [bit.ly/1bDv2kH](http://bit.ly/1bDv2kH)
- Find more about this project via [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org) > Our work

# New project on media transparency in northern Kosovo

In August, ECMI Kosovo signed a grant agreement with the *Embassy of Finland* to implement a one-year project on media transparency in northern Kosovo.

The project has been designed in partnership with the Serbian-speaking radio *Kontakt Plus*, based in northern Kosovo. Already in 2013, the project enabled the production and broadcast of independent daily radio news programmes, weekly interviews with key political actors, and bi-monthly socioeconomic debates in the presence of guests from civil society, experts, and more.

A second component of the project was focused on media training for civil society activists and staff from local public authorities, as well as featuring "an eye-opening training" for local journalists about human rights and minority protection.



# Advisory work to the Georgian government

In March 2013, ECMI completed the programme on *Strengthening the state capacity and enhancing public consultation on minority issues* that was implemented since 2010. The programme was funded by Denmark, administered by ECMI and implemented by ECMI in Georgia in collaboration with the *Council of Europe*.

The project was concluded with a review of activities and results related to building minority governance in Georgia. The review took place at an inter-ministerial meeting on 26 March, organized by and with the presence of ECMI.

Also, ECMI presented a set of recommendations for future policy directions and improvements related to minorities for the *Ministry of Reintegration* (now the *Ministry for Reconciliation and Civil Equality*), which were to:

- Adopt remaining international instruments and adjust domestic legislation
- Create conditions for the implementation of standards
- Adopt and implement recommendations of the monitoring reports related to different sectors
- Provide permanent capacity and competence building on minority issues for state structures
- Continue further institution building country-wide
- Continue inter-ministerial coordination and mainstreaming of minority issues with all relevant state institutions
- Clarify the role of the *Council of National Minorities* as a consultative body
- Establish cooperation with local authorities on minority issues
- Allocate state budget funds to support minority cultural activities and organizational structures
- Provide physical space for minority organizations housing in the regions and in the capital

## ECMI Caucasus in ministerial expert group

Georgia began drafting a new strategy for minority integration. As a follow up to the first *National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration 2009-2013*, a ministerial expert group of four persons identified new priorities for minority integration in Georgia for the period 2014-2020. ECMI Caucasus was represented in the expert group by Giorgi Sordia.

The draft new strategy is expected to be presented in early 2014.

## Advice related to legislative work

Throughout 2013, ECMI Caucasus was consulted in the context of several legislative processes in Georgia; comments and inputs from a minority rights perspective were provided for the following law initiatives and plans:

The *Law on non-discrimination*; the concept of 'multiple discrimination' needed a more concrete dimension.

The *Law on Local Self-governance reform*: it went through several cycles of drafts. ECMI Caucasus recommended that local self-governance should effectively address minority representation and participation in decision-making processes. Currently local authorities have very limited competencies in providing services to local populations as the budgets of municipalities ranges only up to 5%, while the remainder is transferred from the state budget assigned to particular tasks, decided at the central level.

The *Gender Equality National Action Plan* has been discussed for a long time with limited interest from respective government agencies. Towards the end of 2013 and with strong mobilization by the *UN Women Gender Thematic Group*, a draft national action plan was compiled and sent out for comments. Minority women issues were insufficiently mainstreamed, and ECMI Caucasus along with minority women organizations proposed changes and concrete action relevant to minority women and girls.

The *Law on Ecological Migration*, missing in Georgia for several decades, included the definition of an 'ecological migrant'. Yet it still contains gaps as to the resettlement issue, state support to migrants, and as to the communities the migrants will move into.

# ECMI remains committed to the Meskhetian repatriation process

ECMI continued to support the *Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Accommodation (MRA)* in building capacity among Georgia's Meskhetians and to facilitate the integration of repatriates.

Four grants throughout 2013 ensured ECMI's commitment to the Meskhetian repatriation process.

The *OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities* and the *OSCE US Mission* jointly supported the further processing of repatriation applications from the Meskhetian communities residing mainly in Azerbaijan.

A group of three elder members of Georgia's Meskhetian community form the *Council of Elders*. On behalf of the MRA, the *Council of Elders* verifies papers and documents, as well as deportation evidence, to give clearance to applications. Until the end of 2013, the total number of issued statuses numbered close to 1200.

As to the simplified application for Georgian citizenship, only seven individuals applied and were granted conditional citizenship, which will be finalized upon release from previous citizenship.



"Women's rights in Georgia" says the frontpage of this brochure; one of three information brochures created by the ECMI Caucasus to guide the Meskhetian repatriates.

This number is lower than expected, partly due to the political changes in Georgia as a result of parliamentary elections, and partly due to the opinion of the Georgian government that it has fulfilled its obligation to the *Council of Europe* by adopting the *Law on Repatriation* and issuance of the repatriation statuses.

Another purpose of ECMI support to the MRA was to help with finalizing the government's repatriation strategy and the drafting of an action plan which will give the repatriates concrete guidelines on resettlement in Georgia. A draft strategy has been completed in December 2013 and sent for consideration to the ministries who are the members of the *Inter-Agency Council on Repatriation*.

## Building bridges for the Meskhetians

In 2013, an EU *European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights*-grant enabled ECMI and the lead partner *Action Contre la Faim (ACF)* to develop multi-directional activities aiming at *Facilitating Civil Integration and Promoting the Rights of the Repatriated Meskhetian Community in Georgia 2013-2014*.

Key activities in 2013 covered gender issues and democratic participation, providing trainings for women and youth, focusing on women's involvement in community development, leadership skills and the participation of the young generation in elections, national institutions as well as civic integration into the communities they live among.

It required additional capacity building of five registered Meskhetian NGOs to enhance their knowledge on human and minority rights and improve their ability to advocate in an effective, coordinated manner to facilitate the successful repatriation of Meskhetian applicants.

The activities also aimed at (a) providing Meskhetian and non-Meskhetian community leaders with greater knowledge on their rights and responsibilities, (b) tools to assist them in effective engagement with local authorities, and (c) to deliver training and information on repatriation issues and minority rights to relevant local authorities.

Four Meskhetian settlements in Georgia - Tsitelubani, Nasakirali, Ianeti, and Akhaltsikhe - benefited from training in and receiving information on both integration and adaptation skills. The communities are meant to function as a resource and bridge for future repatriates. These activities were sponsored by a US Taft grant.





## CAUCASUS

## CAUCASUS

The 'Taft trainings' covered the following topics:

- Legalizing residency in Georgia and steps and documentation for registration as required by the Civil Registry Agency;
- Purchase and registration of a house, a land plot, livestock and agricultural equipment;
- Health care – private and public insurance;
- Education – registering children at kindergarten, school, vocational training and higher educational facilities;
- Georgian language training opportunities;
- Employment agency and economic opportunities;
- Gender related opportunities and women's rights in Georgia;
- Assistance to persons with disabilities

Finally, a set of brochures were produced in both the Georgian and Azerbaijani languages for easy access to accurate and up to date information provided to the persons with repatriation status.

Brochures have been distributed among Meskhetian communities in Georgia, Azerbaijan and among relevant ministries and stakeholders related to repatriation issues in Georgia.

## Resources

- Find and share this information via [www.infoecmi.eu/index.php/tag/meskhetian/](http://www.infoecmi.eu/index.php/tag/meskhetian/)
- Find the brochures and more information of ECMI Caucasus' Meskhetian related projects via [www.repatriation.ge](http://www.repatriation.ge)

## ECMI joins steering committee of eco-migration project in South Caucasus

The setting up of a steering committee was one of the new elements featured, when a new eco-migration project for South Caucasus was launched in 2013. The steering committee includes ECMI Caucasus.

*Strengthening Structured and Inclusive Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for Promotion of Systemic Reform Implementation in the field of Eco-Migration in the South Caucasus* is the title of a new project for South Caucasus. The 3 year EU-sponsored project is coordinated by the *Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)*.

### Creating a systemic approach to environment threats

The main goal of the project is to create a systemic approach to the reaction to environmental threats in Georgia. This means the establishment of a warning system, a disaster relief system, and resettlement preparedness for ecological migrants.

The entire region of South Caucasus is a seismic zone. It is exposed to the threat of earthquakes and it is a mountainous region presenting environmental hazards such as landslides and flooding. Recently, droughts, the erosion of soil, and desertification has also become a problem.

Georgia, unlike Armenia and Azerbaijan, does not have a strategy for resettlement. Such challenges are addressed only retroactively and ad hoc. However, at the end of 2013, the Georgian government began drafting a law on eco-migration.

The project gathers eleven environmental organizations of Georgia as well as representatives of the Georgian *Ministry of Refugees and Displaced Persons*.

### The role of ECMI Caucasus

Aside from becoming part of the Steering Committee, ECMI Caucasus was also invited to chair a working group on eco-migration and minorities.

Naturally, ECMI Caucasus will try to bring the mainstreaming of minority issues into the dialogue.

The key problem with the resettlement issue is that the settlers, the eco-migrants, are brought to minority areas, which suffer from outmigration due to difficult socio-economic conditions. The eco-migrants belong to culturally, ethnically and religiously different groups than do the minority population. Bringing yet another population to resource poor localities increases the potential for conflict. Moreover, in accordance with Art 16 of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)*, the state shall refrain "from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities". Georgia ratified the FCNM in 2006.

ECMI is represented in the project by Ewa Chylinski and Giorgi Sordia.

## Resources

- Find and share this information via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: ECMI Caucasus

## More ECMI Caucasus appetizers



"Eastern Partnership Minorities Network" partners at the EU Civil Society Forum, Tbilisi, September. From left: Neil Clark and Shorena Kobaidze (Minority Rights Group Europe), Ewa Chylinski and Giorgi Sordia (ECMI Caucasus). Photo: ECMI Caucasus.

**Frequency dictionaries online: Georgian-Azeri-Russian & Georgian-Armenian-Russian**  
ECMI Caucasus and the *Zlata Praga* NGO have released the 2<sup>nd</sup> editions of their frequency dictionaries. Language learners can now find the Georgian-Azeri-Russian and the Georgian-Armenian-Russian dictionaries online.  
Read on: <http://bit.ly/1fW5Toe>

### ECMI Caucasus in the Eastern Partnership Minorities Network

*Minority Rights Group Europe* is the lead partner of a new project titled *Eastern Partnership Minorities Network*. The three year project is co-funded by the *European Commission* and partnered by ECMI Caucasus. The project was launched in April 2013. ECMI Caucasus is managing the Belarusian and co-organizing the Georgian parts of the project.  
Read on: <http://bit.ly/MrbrOs>

### Online: Report on freedom of religion in Georgia and Armenia

*Freedom of Religion in Georgia and Armenia* is now online. This conference report is a result of the May *Regional Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief* in Tbilisi. The conference was co-organized by ECMI Caucasus, and the report edited by ECMI Caucasus Director Ewa Chylinski and Denola Chkhartishvili.  
Read on: <http://bit.ly/1nMq51h>

### ECMI Caucasus assessed needs of minority women in Georgia

Needs and priorities of women in the multiethnic Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions of Georgia were assessed in a study commissioned to ECMI Caucasus by UN Women Georgia. The assessment took place in the period October-December 2013.  
Read on: <http://bit.ly/1lycE6y>





32 research stays in 2013

There are always interns, visiting fellows or visiting researchers studying at the ECMI headquarters in Flensburg. In 2013, 32 stayed for a shorter or longer period of time.

Outside the Kompagnietor building they are relatively anonymous. However, behind the red bricks on Schiffbrücke they play several important roles. They are interns, visiting researcher and fellows, and together they form a veritable army of knowledge about minority issues.

ECMI wants to promote high quality research, and policy relevant analysis on issues related to minorities. It is in this context that the ECMI hosts a large number of visiting researchers and interns every year. For visitors, ECMI functions as a kind of knowledge refinery where the drivers are expert guidance, a good study environment, and a specialized library in a class by itself.

But the many visitors do also return on the investment to the center. They share their findings and knowledge with the center’s permanent staff, thus making sure the staff knows what is in the focus of future researchers and practitioners.

The knowledge sharing is systematized. Generally, visitors present their results for the Centre’s staff in the tiled hall (Sitzungssaal) during the tail-end of the stay.

In 2013, the staff has been able to learn about topics as diverse as *access to health care services for the European Roma* (Diana Purjol), *selective recognition of identities in Romania, Ukraine, and Poland* (Kavita Bapat), *territorial confinements in minority protection* (Lucy Klarich-Kahn) and, as in Afifa Ltifi’s case, about *minority issues in Tunisia*.

The duration of the stays vary from one week to six months, and from time to time there is external financing involved. Now and then, interns also assume administrative or technical duties for ECMI during their stay.

Resources

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Institutional Flensburg



Interns, visiting fellows and visiting researchers come from all corners of the world, are making their presence felt, and proceed back out into the real world with ECMI experience under the belts.

Interns, visiting fellows and researchers in 2013

- Afifa Ltifi (Tunisia)
- Agne Chepinskyte (University of Vilnius)
- Aleksandar Marinov (Romania)
- Alexander Linden (University of Hamburg)
- Ali Salem (Syria)
- Amanda Berisha (Italy/Albania)
- Anastasia Trubnikova (Russia)
- Andreea Racles (Romania)
- Diana Iuliana Pirjol (Romania)
- Ekaterina Zinchenko (Uzbekistan)
- Erma Mulabdic (Bosnia)
- Fulvia Ghirardi (Italy)
- Gabriel Gonzales Nunez (TIME project)
- Henrik Greve (Germany)
- Ian Dyer (Universitat de Pompeu Fabra)
- Kavita Bapat (Canada)
- Lia Elena Gaudi (Romania)
- Linara Aliyeva (Azerbaijan)
- Lucy Klarich-Kahn (USA)
- Mahama Tawat (University of Otago)
- Mariana Jimsheladze (Georgia)
- Marianne Zeh (Germany)
- Martina Belmonte (Italy)
- Raluca Idor (Romania)
- Rukshona Shokhumorova (Tajikistan)
- Simone Penasa (University of Trento)
- Sonja Wolf (Germany)
- Stella Alex (Armenia)
- Tina Tin Genebashvili (Georgia)
- Tony Stanley (United Kingdom)
- Turkan Huseinova (Azerbaijan)

Three interns of Romani background

In 2013, three interns of Romani background were given a special opportunity to carry out research at the ECMI.

Aleksander Marinov, Diana Iuliana Pirjol, and Lia Elana Gaudi were three exceptional candidates chosen for a special opportunity at ECMI in 2013. They are all of Romani background and they were selected for a two months stay at ECMI during the spring.

The three candidates did research in *Roma immigration*, *Roma access to health services*, and *Educational alternatives to penal punishments for young offenders* respectively.

ECMI wish to promote Roma studies

ECMI’s interest in hosting interns of Romani background is twofold: ECMI wishes to encourage and promote the participation of early career researchers of Romani background in academia. And secondly, ECMI recognizes that the Roma minority is faced with huge challenges. Promoting research on this subject will lead to a better understanding of the issues facing the Roma. Hopefully, it will also generate sustainable solutions in this respect.

Donor

ECMI was selected by the *European Academic Network on Romani Studies* to host the three interns of Romani background in 2013. The Network is a joint programme of the *European Union* and the *Council of Europe* that also provides the funding.







Tunesian Afifa Ltifi has a vision:  
let the summer school format serve  
the promotion of Tunisia's minority populations.  
Photo: Lars Salomonsen

## Afifa Ltifi envisions a summer school for North Africa as a platform for surfacing minority issues

**The insight gained at ECMI by Tunisian Afifa Ltifi is a bit unusual: a summer school for North African youth may help break the silence on minority issues, she concluded.**

Afifa Ltifi is only one, one of many interns, visiting fellows, pre-proposal fellows, and visiting researchers who stay at ECMI every year. Their stays are part of their studies and professional careers. Naturally, all visitors gain knowledge and get ideas during their stay, but the vision developed by Afifa Ltifi's is sticking out. "What if we organize a summer school for North African youth?" suggested Afifa Ltifi before she left Flensburg.

The 25 year old Tunisian journalist and researcher is active in the first ever black minority rights organization in Tunisia, where minority issues have been traditionally anathema. The very existence of her organization, *ADAM for equality and development*, is due to the more liberal climate after the revolution, she explains.

While interns generally leave Flensburg having gained new *knowledge* on minority-majority relations for their future endeavors, Afifa Ltifi highlights one *means* that she got to know during her stay: the ECMI summer school format that brings together young researchers and practitioners from all over the world.

"A summer school on minority issues could be the lever that breaks the public silence about minorities in Tunisia," she envisions.

### Minority-majority relations in Tunisia

Tunisia is a truly multicultural country, though it is not a topic that is publicly discussed. Apart from the dominating population of mixed Arabs and Berber (Amazigh), the country is also populated by Black Africans, Jews and many more.

A few quotes from Afifa Ltifi frame the ambition of breaking the silence on minority issues in Tunisia. The words fell on 7 November, when she introduced her colleagues in Flensburg to minority-majority relations of her country: "Voices representing difference are silenced, minority issues are taboo, and the organizations working on the issues are seen as the people who try to divide the country." "Minority rights ideas are new and it takes guts to say: 'Here I am!'" "Racist traditions still exist, and the slavery is still haunting the current generation, although it was abolished in 1846." "There is an identity crisis of the black community in Tunisia: Who are we? Are we Maghreb, North African, Mediterranean or Arab?"

### Ltifi's stay supported by IFA

Afifa Ltifi's internship at ECMI was funded by the Stuttgart based *Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen* (IFA). Her internship took place from 19 August to 8 November 2013. Ltifi did research in minorities' conditions in Germany, particularly the situation of black people.

### Resources

- Find and share this information from [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Categories: Institutional Flensburg





Summer School participant, Syrian Oula Abdulhamid (left) joining a topical demonstration in Flensburg. The Summer School 2013 took place from 19-29 August 2013 at ECMI and at Flensburg University. Photo: Tamari Bulia.

# Trouble spots of the world marked ECMI Summer School 2013

With Syria burning, Tunisia in simmering, and sparks flying in the Caucasus, ECMI carried out its annual summer school. Nevertheless, the mindset among the 2013 summer school participants seemed to be set on the future.

For the third year in a row, ECMI carried out its summer school with the title *National Minorities and Border Regions Summer School*. The summer school took place 19-29 August, ending with an award ceremony for the thirty participants at the city hall of Flensburg. *ECMI Summer School 2013* was carried out in collaboration with the *University of Flensburg*.

This year, the trouble spots of the world marked the summer school particularly, say organizers.

The motives are many, when NGOs, journalists and young scientists apply to participate in ECMI's summer school. Tamari Bulia and Hanna Vasilevich, who organize the summer school, were surprised at how different were the applicants, and the extent to which they reflected the world's topical hot spots.

"ECMI and the Danish-German border region can apparently inspire people who are wondering which way Syria should take after Assad. This is a surprise – a positive surprise", explained Tamari Bulia.

"And the same can be said about Tunisia", she added:

"After the revolution, organizations have emerged that promote the black minorities' rights. They need to create networks and experience in Europe, and in this context, Europe is here by us."

Also Caucasian, Balkan, and other participants came with the hope of gathering knowledge and inspiration. The draw cards were the Danish-German border region, the other participants' firsthand knowledge of other border regions, and a professional programme that promised to examine a number of European border regions and to present the *European minority rights regime*.

## Funded by Robert Bosch Stiftung

The European Centre for Minority Issues' Summer School project, *Raising awareness on border regions conflict dynamics*, was made possible by funding from the *Robert Bosch Stiftung*. The funding allowed 14 participants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, fYRoM-Macedonia, Georgia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova to take part in the project.

Also Schleswig-Holstein's Minister-President Torsten Albig granted an amount for the implementation of the ECMI Summer School 2013.

## Resources

- Find and share this information via [www.infoecmi.eu](http://www.infoecmi.eu) > Category: Institutional Flensburg
- Find more about ECMI Summer School [www.ecmi.de](http://www.ecmi.de) > Trainings
- Find the ECMI Summer School 2013 photo set via [bit.ly/Z9PxUL](http://bit.ly/Z9PxUL)
- Watch the ECMI Summer School 2013 video report at [youtu.be/gkunBvVkDJM](http://youtu.be/gkunBvVkDJM)

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Finances

In 2013 ECMI received funding from its institutional founders covering the costs of the core staff, library and maintenance at headquarters in Flensburg. Additionally ECMI also raised funds for several international projects.

ECMI Total Funding 2010-2013 Contributions from founders and other donors in EUR					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Kingdom of Denmark	446.000	446.000	446.000	446.000	
Republic of Germany	241.000	241.000	241.000	241.000	
State of Schleswig-Holstein	205.000	205.000	205.000	205.000	
Subtotal contribution from founders	892.000	892.000	892.000	892.000	
Contributions from donors	603.000	358.350	481.419	294.070	
Other funding	12.000	30.000	24.955	11.000	
Total	1.507.000	1.280.350	1.398.374	1.197.070	

ECMI Externally Funded Projects 2013 Region and Project Title	Donor
ECMI	
"Enhancing Good Governance - Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Georgia", Denmark's Georgia Programme (in partnership with the Council of Europe)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
"Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralization Process in Kosovo"	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
"Supporting Effective Governance for Minority Communities in Kosovo"	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
"ECMI Handbook on Minority Rights Regime publication"	Sydbank Flensburg
"Raising awareness on border regions conflict dynamics"	Robert Bosch Foundation
"ECMI Summer School"	Minister President of Schleswig-Holstein
"Youth exchange - Raise your Voice"- international radio network project	EU Youth in Action programme
Three research internships on Roma issues	Council of Europe
"Policy management of ethnocultural diversity in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine: between the Soviet legacy and European standards"	Carnegie Foundation
ECMI workshop at the ECPR Joint Sessions 2013: "National minorities between protection and empowerment: Contemporary minority politics in Europe"	Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft
"Co-operation for a Stable Future: International and Intercultural dialogue as a Tool for Ensuring Peace and Sustainable Development"	Council for State Support for NGOs, President of Azerbaijan

ECMI Regionally Funded Projects 2013

Region and Project Title	Donor
ECMI Kosovo	
"Promotion of a Transparent Media Environment in Northern Kosovo"	Embassy of Finland in Prishtina
"Support to the Ministry of Communities and Returns in the Development of the MCR 2014-2018 Strategy for Communities and Returns"	British and Norwegian Embassies in Kosovo
"Official Language Acquisition in Kosovo"	OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and Office of the Language Commissioner/ Office of the Prime Minister
"Supporting Civil Society Members of the Consultative Council for Communities"	The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo
"Enhancing Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children"	UNICEF
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"Regional conference Georgia-Armenia on Freedom of Religion"	Embassy of the Netherlands and UN Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights
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